

NETWORK SWITCH CROSS POINT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A switching fabric having cross points that process multiple stripes of serial data. Each cross point includes a plurality of port slices and ports. Each port includes a plurality of FIFOs, a FIFO read arbitrator, a multiplexer, a dispatcher, and an accumulator. In one embodiment, each cross point has eight ports and eight port slices. A method for processing a stripe of data at a cross point at one port slice includes storing data received from other port slices in a plurality of FIFOs and arbitrating the reading of the stored data. A step of writing data received from a port at the one port slice to an appropriate FIFO in a different port slice is also included. In one embodiment, a method for processing data in port slice based on wide cell encoding and an external flow control command is provided.